Province of
British Columbia
MURRIN PARK
MASTER PLAN

MURRIN PROVINCIAL PARK

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This Master Plan for Murrin Provincial Park

is submitted for your approval.

J. C. Leman
Regional Director

Approved: G. Iracheux, Director — Date: OCT 23/81

Recommended: W. D. Watson, District Manager — Date:

Recommended: G. F. Macrae — Date: Oct 22 1981

105-03319/

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Setting and Regional Perspective

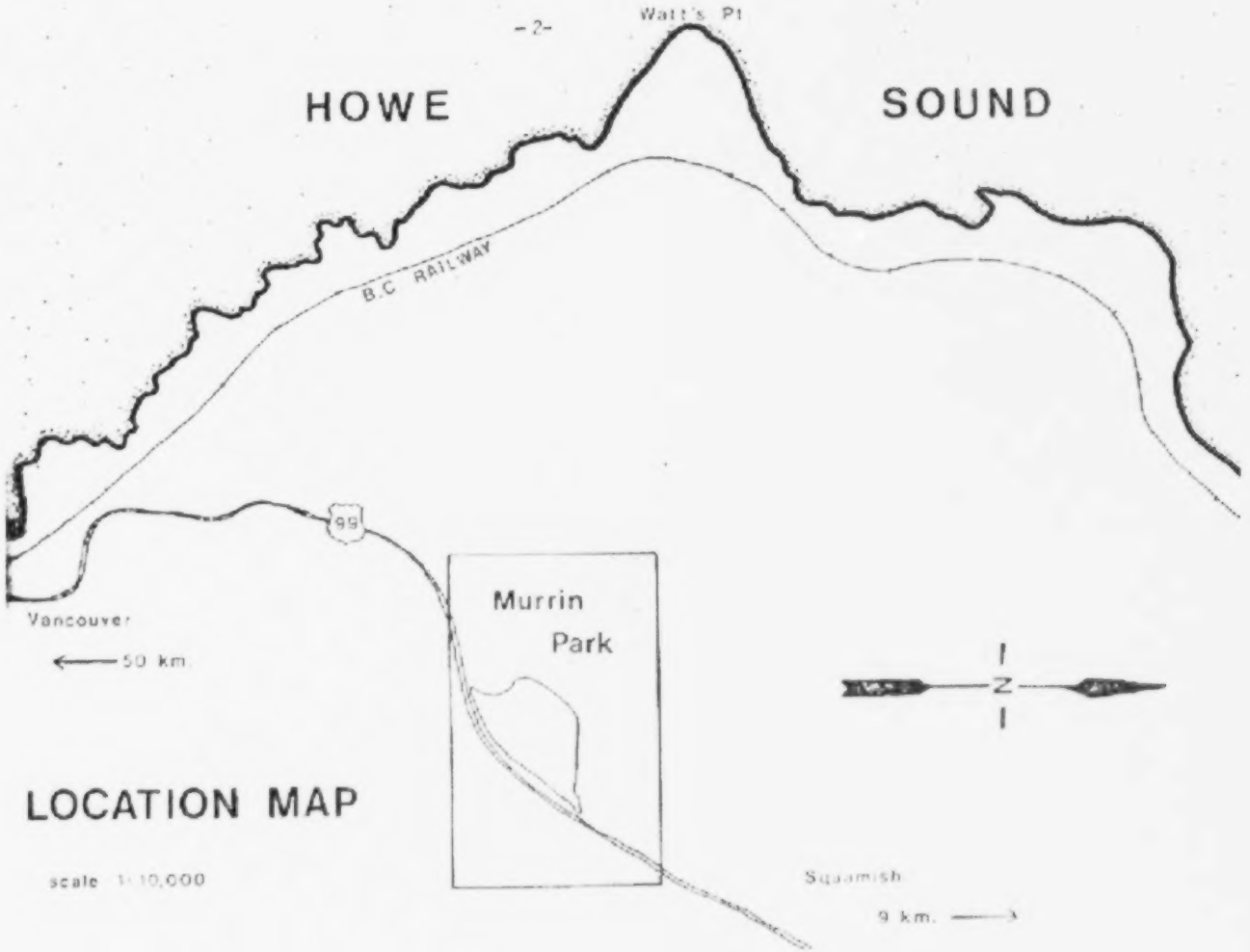
Murrin Provincial Park is a Class 'A', Category 6 park; 16 hectares were donated in 1962 from the then British Columbia Electric Company and later expanded by 8 hectares in 1966. The park, encompassing Browning Lake, is bisected by Highway 99 and is located 9 kilometres south of Squamish (approximately 50 kilometres north of Vancouver) (Figure 1). The park's location and its close proximity to major tourist attractions such as Shannon Falls and the British Columbia Mining Museum, has made Murrin Park a popular area for day outings and stop-overs, used by some 130,000 people annually.

Within the park vicinity are a number of other recreational areas (Figure 2) including Porteau Cove Provincial Park, Tunnel Rock Highway Rest Area and Petgill and Deek's Lake trails.

The park is usable throughout the year, providing swimming, fishing, rock climbing and picnicking opportunities during the summer months while ice fishing and skating are possible during cold winters.

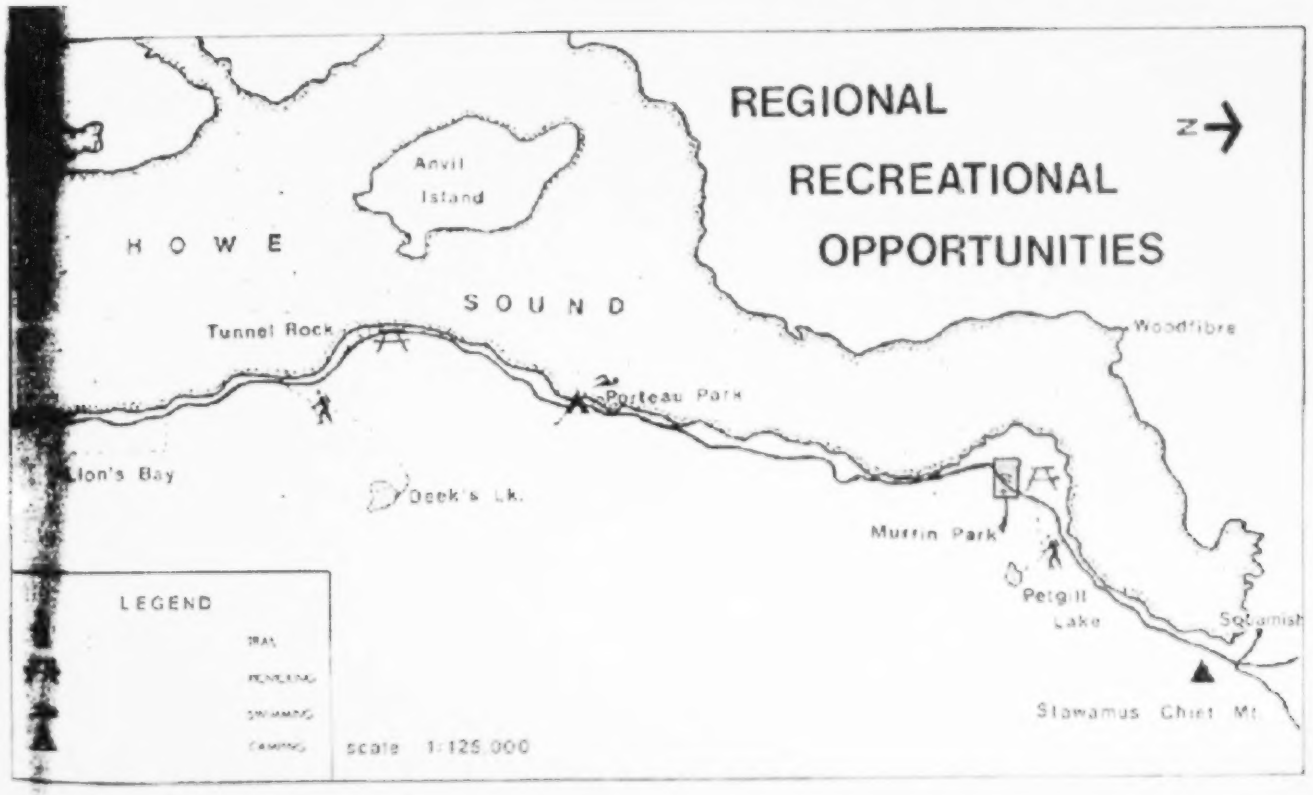
PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

View towards the south from lookout



LOCATION MAP

scale 1:10,000


REGIONAL
RECREATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES
N
Anvil
Island
H O W E
S O U N D
Tunnel Rock
Porteau Park
Woodfibre
Deek's Lk.
Murrin Park
Petgill
Lake
Squamish
Stawamus Chief Mt.
LEGEND
TRAIL
PICNICKING
SWIMMING
CAMPING
scale 1:125,000

2. Existing Development

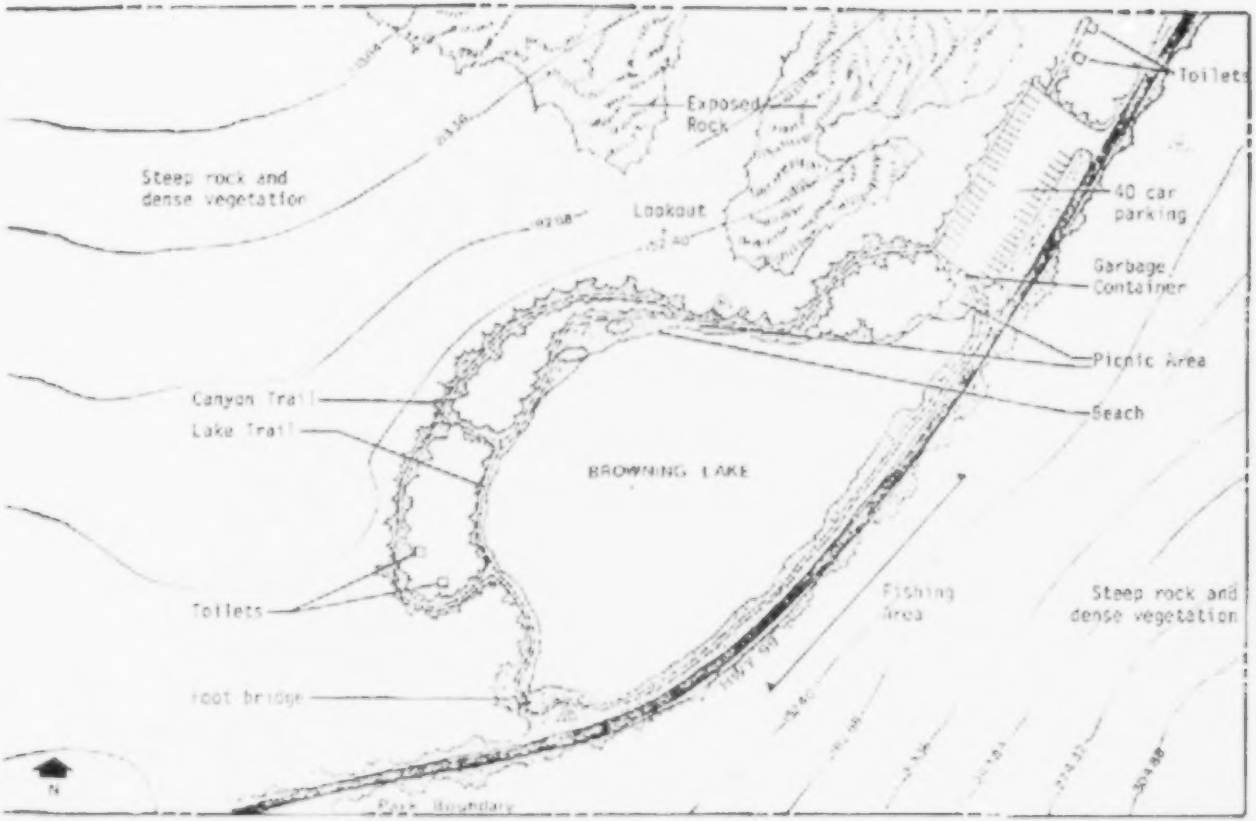
Present park development includes day use parking for approximately 40 cars and a long, narrow picnic area (Figure 3) along the northern shore of Browning Lake. Fronting the picnic area is approximately 60 metres of gravelly beach that provides easy access to the water.

The main trail in the park follows the perimeter of the lake making a complete loop, with minor upland trails branching off from it. This main trail is just the right distance for a leisurely walk and has good views of the lake throughout its length.

Wood corrals and garbage receptacles are provided at convenient locations in the picnic area with two sets of pit toilets off to the sides of the main activity areas.

Access to the park is via Highway 99 approximately 3 kilometres north of Britannia Beach. An automatic traffic counter is located at the parking lot entrance to record attendance while central to the parking is an information shelter for public orientation and information.

Figure 3
(PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE)



MURRIN PROVINCIAL PARK

SCALE 1:2500 FIGURE 4: EXISTING FEATURES MAP

3. Recreational Use

The park is essentially used as a rest stop for motorists travelling Highway 99, a highway more heavily used than any provincial highway north of Cache Creek. Attendance figures (Table 1) from the traffic counter indicate a tripling of the frequency of use in the past six years. In August, during peak periods, the parking lot is often filled to capacity.

Present activities include picnicking, hiking and fishing. The main trail adjacent to the highway has become a favourite spot from which to fish. Browning Lake is restricted to anglers under 15 or over 65 years of age.

The steep cliffs of the area have sparked some interest among mountaineering groups, with many areas of the park used as training walls for beginning climbers.

4. Projected Demand

Increased visitation to Murrin Park is closely linked to the local and regional attractions and the capacity of the parking area. Future campground expansion at Alice Lake Provincial Park, the opening of Porteau Cove Provincial Park, the development at Whistler Village, and other regional developments will attract a greater number of users to the area. The subsequent result will be increased use at Murrin Provincial Park.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

TABLE 1

VISITOR ATTENDANCE RECORDS 1973 – 1979

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTY DAYS
1973	16,094
1974	26,779
1975	24,813
1976	21,200
1977	25,038
1978	33,778
1979	49,956

B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. Role

It is the purpose of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division in concert with the private sector and other Provincial and Federal agencies to provide a diverse recreation system, offering a variety of outdoor opportunities for both tourists and local residents.

Murrin Park primarily fulfills this role with specific reference to provincial tourism and day use recreation goals. The park enhances the tourist corridor of Highway 99, while providing a variety of day use lakeshore opportunities in a scenic setting.

2. Objectives

Park opportunities at Murrin Provincial Park include picnicking, hiking, fishing, canoeing and rock climbing.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

C. PARK RESOURCES STATEMENT

Murrin Park lies in the wet subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone and is characterized by a Douglas fir and red alder overstorey. Shallow soils dictate the growth of shore pine on many of the rock outcrops. The fauna of the park echoes the climate and vegetation. The predominantly steep topography reflecting the granitic bedrock geology limits access to the perimeter of the park and expansion of facilities.

Several small canyons and gullies form a natural trail to rock bluffs overlooking Browning Lake and Howe Sound. The steep, vertical walls of the cliffs provide challenging rock climbing opportunities for novice and intermediate climbers.

Browning Lake is the main feature of the park. Its aesthetic qualities enhance the views from the Highway and easy lakeshore access makes the lake usable for a wide variety of activities.

The lake is stocked annually with approximately 4,000 rainbow trout by the Fish and Wildlife Branch (see Appendix). Ample opportunity exists for leisurely canoeing and row boating, however no power boats are permitted.

PHOTOGRAPH OF ROCK BLUFFS NOT AVAILABLE

D. ZONING

Only two zones are to be established in the park.

1. Development Zone

This zone will include that area of the park where facilities have been or should be constructed to ensure public access, use and enjoyment of all recreational opportunities. Development will reflect a day-use orientation with facilities for swimming, hiking, picnicking, fishing and mountain climbing.

2. Natural Zone

This zone will include the remaining majority area of the park. This zone generally has no development and serves as a buffer and setting for the park.

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FIGURE 5: ZONING PLAN

Hydro Tower
Natural Zone
Development Zone

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E. PARK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Murrin Provincial Park will be managed on a day use basis from the Garibaldi District Office at Alice Lake.

Normal park management procedures will continue at Murrin. Outside the development zone, natural processes will be allowed to continue unaltered.

Continued close co-operation with the Ministry of the Environment is necessary to ensure adequate management of the lake resources.

SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Resource Management

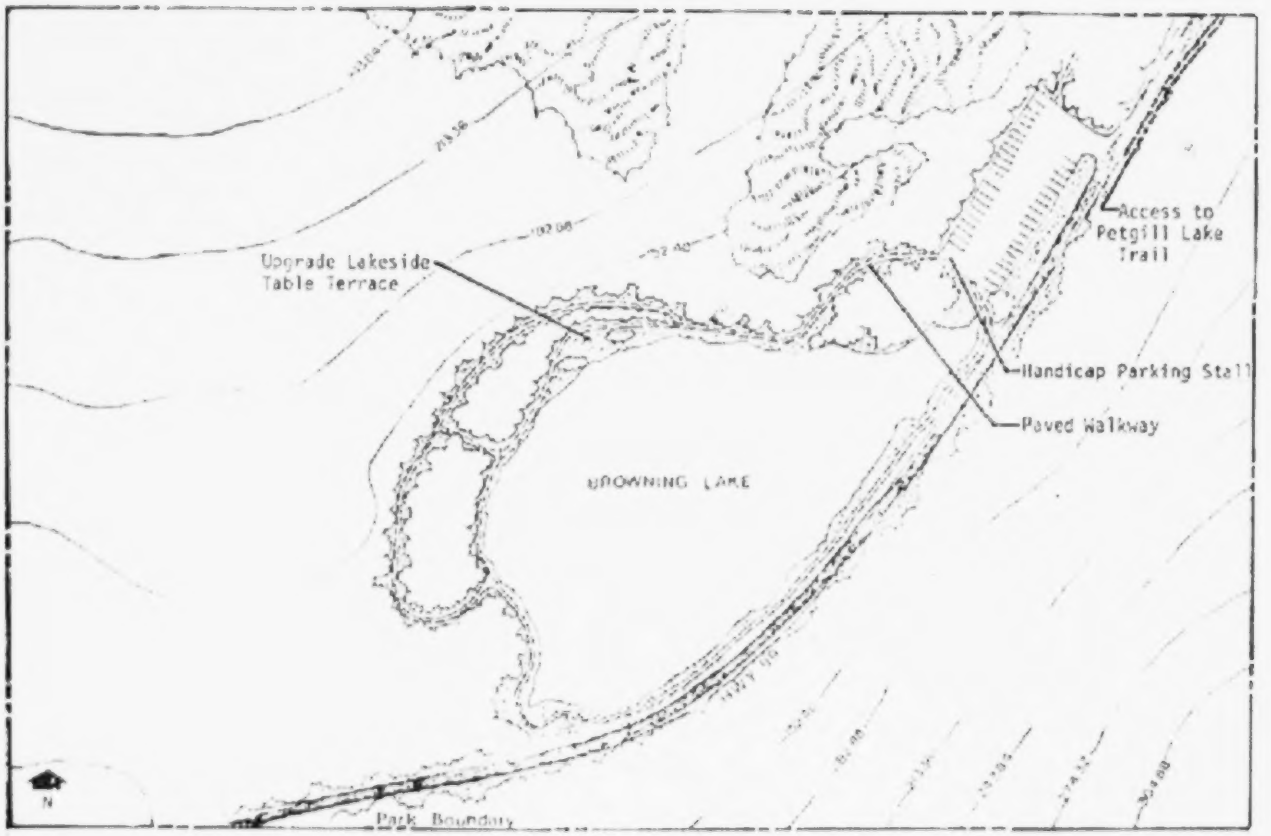
The resources of the park are generally stable and require very little management from year to year, therefore standard management procedures that maintain the safe and functional use of the park will be continued.

2. Visitor Management

The park will be managed for intensive day use recreation. In view of topographic constraints and existing use patterns and development, there is presently little need for further development other than to improve access to the Petgill Lake Trail. Existing developments, such as the lakeside table terrace, will be upgraded as necessary, as well as provisions to improve handicap access.

3. Administrative

The administration of Murrin Park will be based at the Alice Lake office of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, with standard management practices implemented.



MURRIN PROVINCIAL PARK

SCALE 1:2500 Figure 6: DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Hydro Tower

F. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

There are only three projects requiring attention to implement this plan; reconstruction of the table terrace, improved access to the Petgill Lake Trail, and provisions for the handicapped in the form of a handicapped-designated parking stall and a paved walkway to the main use area.

These will be funded as regional priorities dictate.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX: BROWNING LAKE FISH STOCKING DATA*

Year	Species	Number	# Fish/lb.	Species	Number
1970	RT	2030	12		
1971	RT	3200	12		
1972	RT	3000	12		
1973	RT	5000	12		
1974	RT	6000	12	RT	5000
1975	RT	4000	12	RT	2000
1976	RT	4000	12	RT	
1977	RT	1500	12	RT	2800
1978	RT	1518	12	RT	1000
1979	RT	2000	12	RT	1500

*Information was provided by Burnaby office of Fish and Wildlife Branch.